

down back, slightly mottled. [possibly a color phase of *Ischnochiton radians*]; 7 *Calistochiton palmulatus* and *mirabilis*; 4 *Placiphorella velata*; 2 *Mopalia ciliata*; several nice *Lepidozona mertensi*, including one deep purple [color phase]; a couple of *Ischnochiton regularis*; several *Stenoplax heathiana*; *Nuttallina californica* all over rocks; and 1 blue *Ischnochiton radians* (deep blue). — Weather threatening but ocean not rough."

Mack finally lost interest in collecting and turned over his entire collection, mostly all still preserved wet, to the California Academy of Sciences on 5 July, 1947. They could not be worked on immediately for lack of time, but in March 1948 all specimens (a few had dried up) were washed for several days in running water to leach out the formalin and then transferred to alcohol. In spite of the unfortunate effect of the formalin, many specimens are still in good condition and have been placed in the collection of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology at the Academy where they are available, along with the collecting notes, for subsequent reference and research.

California Brown Cowrie in Central California

BY

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Mr. Robert P. Sikora, University of California Zoology student supplies information to the effect that the California Brown Cowrie (*Cypraea spadicea* Swainson) was taken alive in the summer of 1961 by members of the Marin Skin Divers Club. According to the report, about 20 specimens were collected with SCUBA equipment in a depth of 80 feet on a rock off Cypress Point, Monterey County, California. One of these specimens, measuring 57.7 mm. in length, 35.8 mm. in width, and 29.3 mm. in height, has been placed in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences through the generosity of Mr. Al. Giddings, a member of the Marin Club. This specimen is a rather light-colored one and is normal in all respects.

The finding of this cowrie alive in an area considerably to the north of its published range is notable. It confirms an old record of a living specimen found at Pacific Grove in 1910 or thereabouts by Nettie (Mrs. Charles S.) Fackenthal, which has been cited several times in the literature. The location of this particular shell, formerly in Mrs. Fackenthal's collection, is now not known.

Arion ater (LINNAEUS) in California

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The large, black European slug, *Arion ater* (Linnaeus), has so far been reported from the West Coast only in Washington and Oregon. It now becomes an unfortunate duty to record that this garden pest has reached California.

California specimens were collected by field men of the Del Norte County Department of Agriculture in nurseries in Crescent City and vicinity, and inland five miles northwest of Gasquet, Del Norte County.

They were forwarded to the California Academy of Sciences for identification by Mr. L. J. Garrett, Agricultural Commissioner of Del Norte County, whose vigilance in the apparently early discovery of this new and potentially injurious agricultural and garden pest is to be commended. One can only hope that the Del Norte County infestation can be eradicated before the species spreads farther south in the State.

Arion ater reaches an expanded length of 4.5 to 5 inches. It may be recognized rather easily by the rugose mantle and the coarse, elongated tubercles over the back and sides of the body. Like other Arions and the greenhouse slug [*Milax gagates* (Draparnaud)], it contracts into a semicircular shape when inactive or disturbed. An excellent figure may be found in Pilsbry (1948, p. 668, fig. 365). There are several color phases, the most prevalent being black or brownish.

My first collecting experience with this species was on October 9 and 10, 1943, in the